

Publishers Attack Lack of U.S. Copyright Reform

Impatience with U.S. copyright law reform finally bubbled over yesterday at a stormy session of the International Publishers Association Congress here.

American publishers were attacked for a "lack of guts" in pushing for reforms which would permit foreign publishers to compete on more even terms with the domestic book industry.

A House Judiciary Subcommittee reopened hearings yesterday on possible reforms in the U.S. copyright law. One of

the provisions is the "manufacturing clause," which made some of the 900 delegates to the 17th Triennial association congress so mad yesterday.

The clause, which American publishers insist was inserted into the law at the request of the printing industry and its unions—restricts the number of copies of foreign-manufactured books by an American writer that can be brought into this country.

Anything over 1500 copies of his foreign-published book and the author loses his copy-

right. This effectively draws American writers to American publishing houses rather than risk the loss of copyright, the foreign publishers charge.

Capt. Robert Maxwell, a British publisher and Labor Member of Parliament charged in a work session held at the Washington Hilton that American publishers "lacked the guts to tell their government that the nonsense has gone on long enough."

Roy C. Sharp of Toronto, of the Canadian Book Publishers Council, said the Canadian

industry thinks the manufacturing clause is meant for them.